



SOCIAL SECURITY

Refer to:
S9H: SSA-2019-000571

November 27, 2018

Sai Zai
MuckRock News Dept
MR 63294 411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144
63294-99725263@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Sai Zai:

I am responding to your request for a fee waiver regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for:

1. “the entire Open Access Death Master File, in native electronic format, as defined in 15 CFR 1110.2”
2. All records relating to the fulfillment of this request, such as FOIA logs, documentation of searches, referral emails, etc., and
3. All records relating to any complaint(s), FOIA requests(s)/appeal(s), and/or Privacy Act requests(s)/appeal(s) made by you. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. All records relating to the processing of your requests, complaints, etc;
 - b. All records containing the terms: my name, email address(es), and other contact or identifying information, listed below my signature; and
 - c. All records containing any of my complaint, request or appeal identifiers.

I have decided not to waive or reduce the fee.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii)) provides that agencies will furnish documents at no charge or at a reduced charge if disclosing information is in the public interest because:

- it is likely to contribute significantly to the public’s understanding of the government’s operations or activities, and
- it is not primarily in the requester’s commercial interest.

Our regulation (see 20 C.F.R. § 402.185(b)) lists factors we consider in analyzing whether disclosure is in the public interest. These factors include:

- how the records pertain to the Federal government’s operations or activities,

- whether disclosure would reveal any meaningful information about government operations or activities not already known to the public,
- whether the disclosure will advance the general public's understanding as distinguished from a narrow segment of interested persons, and
- whether the contribution to public understanding would be significant.

While the documents you have requested may reveal meaningful information about the Social Security Administration's (SSA) operations and activities, you have not indicated how you will use this information to significantly advance the general public's understanding. Therefore, we cannot waive the fee.

If you have questions, or would like further assistance with your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov; by phone at 410-965-1727, by choosing Option 2; or facsimile at 410-966-0869.

You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration for dispute resolution services. OGIS is an entity outside of the Social Security Administration that offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you disagree with this decision, you may file a written appeal with the Executive Director for the Office of Privacy and Disclosure, Social Security Administration, G-401 WHR, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted to FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov within 90 days of the date of our response to your initial request. Please mark the envelope or subject line with "Freedom of Information Appeal."

Sincerely,



Monica Chyn
Acting Freedom of Information Officer